

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A receiver comprising:
 - a first tuner that receives a first incoming signal and converts it to a first perceptible form;
 - a second tuner that receives a second incoming signal and converts it to a second perceptible form; and
 - a controller coupled to the first and second tuners for selecting an output of the first or second tuner,

where at least one of the tuners is programmed to scan a frequency range to identify the availability of an operator designated program.
2. The receiver of claim 1, further comprising data recovery circuitry coupled to the controller to extract identifying data from at least one of the incoming signals.
3. The receiver of claim 2, further comprising a memory storing program designation data for a comparison to the identifying data.
4. The receiver of claim 3, where the program designation data comprises operator preferred program codes.
5. The receiver of claim 3, where the program designation data comprises at least one of a program selection count and a program selection time.
6. The receiver of claim 1, further comprising combining circuitry coupled to the controller that combines at least one of the first and second incoming signals with an availability signal.
7. A receiver comprising:
 - a memory storing program designation data;
 - a selected program receiver comprising:
 - a program tuner; and
 - a program output coupled to the program tuner for conveying a program output signal;
 - a program monitoring receiver coupled to the memory and operable to locate a

designated program matching at least a portion of the program designation data, the program monitoring receiver comprising:

a monitoring tuner;

comparison circuitry coupled to the monitoring tuner; and

5 a comparison output coupled to the comparison circuitry; and

signaling circuitry coupled to the comparison output, the signaling circuitry comprising a signaling output for carrying a designated program location signal.

8. The receiver of claim 7, where the program designation data comprises operator
10 specified program preference data.

9. The receiver of claim 8, where the program preference data comprises at least one
program code.

15 10. The receiver of claim 7, where the program designation data comprises at least one of
a program selection count and a program selection time.

11. The receiver of claim 7, further comprising combining circuitry coupled to the
15 program output and the signaling circuitry, where the combining circuitry combines the
designated program location signal with the program output signal.

20 12. The receiver of claim 7, where the selected program receiver is operable to turn ON
and automatically receive the designated program in response to the signaling output.

25 13. A receiver comprising:

a first program receiver comprising:

a first tuner; and

25 a first program output for carrying a first program output signal processed by
the first tuner;

30 a second program receiver comprising:

a second tuner; and

35 a second program output for carrying a second program output signal;

a memory storing program designation data; and

a controller coupled to the memory, the first program receiver, and the second
35 program receiver, the controller operable to cause the first receiver to receive a first program
while the second receiver locates a designated program that matches at least a portion of the

designation data.

14. The receiver of claim 13, where the controller is further operable to cause the second receiver to receive the designated program while causing the first receiver to locate a next designated program, when the second receiver locates the designated program.

5 15. The receiver of claim 13, further comprising signaling circuitry coupled to the controller.

10 16. The receiver of claim 15, where the designated program location signal comprises an audio signal.

15 17. The receiver of claim 13, where the program designation data comprises at least one of a program code list, program selection count and a program selection time.

18. A method for receiving a designated program, the method comprising the acts of:
reading program designation data;
receiving a selected program with a selected program receiver;
locating a designated program that matches at least a portion of the program designation data with a program monitoring receiver; and
signaling a location of the designated program when the program monitoring receiver locates the designated program.

25 19. The method of claim 18, where locating a designated program comprises the acts of:
receiving a transmitted program signal;
obtaining program indicia from the transmitted program signal; and
comparing the program indicia to at least a portion of the program designation data.

20 20. The method of claim 18, where reading the program designation data comprises the act of reading operator specified program preference data.

25 21. The method of claim 18, where reading the program designation data comprises the act of reading program selection characteristic data including at least one of a program selection count and a program selection time.

30 35 22. A method for receiving a designated program, the method comprising the acts of:

- receiving a first program with a first program receiver;
- locating a designate program with a second program receiver, the designated program matching program designation data, while the first program receiver receives the first program; and
- 5 interchanging operations of the first and second program receiver so that the second program receiver receives the designated program while the first program receiver locates a next designated program, when the second program receiver locates the designated program.
23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the act of reading operator specified
10 program preference data comprising a program code list.
24. The method of claim 22, further comprising the act of interchanging operations of the
15 first and second program receiver a second time so that the first program receiver receives the
 subsequent designated program for presentation while the second program receiver locates a
 succeeding designated program.
25. The method of claim 22, further comprising the acts of generating an announcement
 signal in response to locating the designated program and combining the announcement
 signal with the first program.
- 20 26. A machine readable medium encoded with instructions that cause a signal receiver to
 perform a method comprising:
 reading program designation data;
 receiving a selected program with a selected program receiver;
25 locating a designated program that matches the program designation data with a
 program monitoring receiver; and
 generating an announcement signal when the program monitoring receiver locates the
 designated program.
- 30 27. The machine readable medium of claim 26, where locating a designated program
 comprises the acts of:
 receiving a transmitted program signal;
 obtaining program indicia from the transmitted program signal; and
 comparing the program indicia to at least a portion of the program designation data.
- 35 28. The machine readable medium of claim 26, where reading program designation data

comprises the act of reading operator specified program preference data.

29. The machine readable medium of claim 26, where reading program designation data comprises the act of reading at least one of a program selection count and a program selection time.

5 30. A machine readable medium encoded with instructions that cause a signal receiver to perform a method comprising:

10 receiving a first program with a first program receiver;
 locating a designated program with a second program receiver that matches program designation data, while the first program receiver receives the first program; and
 interchanging operations of the first and second program receiver so that the second program receiver receives the designated program for presentation while the first program receiver locates a next designated program, when the second program receiver locates the 15 designated program.

31. The machine readable medium of claim 30, where the program designation data comprises at least one operator specified program code.

20 32. The machine readable medium of claim 30, further comprising the act of interchanging operations of the first and second program receiver a second time so that the first program receiver receives the next designated program for presentation while the second program receiver locates a succeeding designated program.

25 33. The machine readable medium of claim 30, where locating a designated program comprises the act of sweeping at least one of a television and a radio frequency range.